

Strengthening Adolescent Learning through the Dynamic Duo Accountability Partner Model

An innovation from the Empowering Futures Project

PATHFINDER

ORGANON

Introduction



Developed as a component of the Empowering Futures project's peer mentorship curriculum, the **Dynamic Duo Accountability Partner Model** is an innovative approach to strengthening outcomes from adolescent-focused peer mentorship programs. This model pairs each adolescent participant with a parent or caregiver to form a "dynamic duo" responsible for applying learnings at home.

By acting as a supportive ally and accountability partner, the parent or caregiver helps bridge the gap between theory and practice through intergenerational dialogue. In a dynamic duo, the role of the parent or caregiver involves:

-  **Providing Support**
Offering a safe space for the adolescent to share lessons from mentorship sessions.
-  **Guiding Reflections**
Asking insightful questions and sharing perspectives to help the adolescent think critically.
-  **Facilitating Application**
Helping the adolescent translate new knowledge into real-life situations and "SMART" actions.
-  **Strengthening Communication**
Breaking down the silence and stigma through open, respectful dialogue.

PROJECT

Empowering Futures

-  Federal Capital Territory, Nigeria
-  Organon

Funded by Organon and implemented in partnership with the Federal Capital Territory Primary Healthcare Board, the **Empowering Futures** project aims to promote and enhance reproductive health outcomes of adolescents and young people by equipping them with essential life skills through peer mentorship and community-driven approaches.



Guardians attending the graduation of their adolescents.

How the Dynamic Duo Model Works

The model follows a structured cycle of learning, practicing, and sharing to ensure a robust feedback loop.

The Sessions



Adolescents attend a peer mentorship session covering topics like financial literacy, goal setting, or effective communication.

The Duo Activity



Adolescents are assigned a specific task to complete at home with their partner. These activities are directly linked to the session's curriculum.

The Home Engagement



Together, the duo completes the activity. This fosters trust and ensures the adult is empowered with accurate information alongside the adolescent.

The Feedback Loop



At the start of the next session, adolescents present their completed activities to their peers, building confidence and allowing for collective learning.

Impact and Success Stories

Goal Setting

In a peer mentorship session focused on goal setting, adolescents were introduced to **Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound (SMART)** goals. Their dynamic duo activity required them to work with their caregivers to list and visualize the goals they hoped to achieve before the next session. In the following session, adolescents shared their clearly defined SMART goals with their peers.

One participant, a 15-year-old boy, shared his aspiration to become a lawyer and how he translated his goal into actionable steps:

"I will study for at least two hours every weekday evening and complete one past WAEC question paper each week for the next three months, to improve my scores and increase my chances of passing my secondary school exams with the grades required for university admission to enable me study law."

Economic Empowerment

In a peer mentorship session focused on financial literacy and economic empowerment, adolescents learned basics of planning, budgeting, and developing simple action plans for achieving financial goals. Their dynamic duo activity encouraged them to refine entrepreneurial ideas with the support of their caregivers and seek guidance from community resources or school counselors.

One participant, a 13-year-old girl, presented a plan for starting a popcorn business. She explained how she collaborated with her aunt to make and sell popcorn. While her aunt handled production, she handled sales and received a commission. She also shared that she was learning the production process herself so that she could one day independently run her business.



Facilitator leading a peer mentorship session.

Effective Communication

In a peer mentorship session focused on effective communication, participants learned about active listening, expressing thoughts clearly, and showing respect during conversations.

One participant, a 12-year-old boy, reported that these new skills helped him communicate better both inside and outside the home. By applying concepts he learned in the session, he was able to successfully mediate and resolve a conflict between two of his friends.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the Dynamic Duo approach transforms the learning environment into a protective ecosystem. It builds a foundation where adolescents feel heard, guided, and empowered to make informed decisions about their health, finances, and future well-being.



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The Empowering Futures initiative isn't just about service delivery—it's about listening, adapting, and building systems that put youth at the center. As we continue implementing, we remain guided by adolescent voices and are committed to demonstrating tangible change, one session at a time.

For nearly 70 years, Pathfinder International has been a catalyst for systems transformation, inclusive growth, and resilient communities in over 120 countries across the world. With a global footprint spanning Africa, South Asia, and the Middle East, we invest in women, girls, and communities by expanding access to essential health products and services while advancing health systems, unlocking leadership pathways, and strengthening economic and climate resilience. Through strategic partnerships with civil society, governments, and the private sector, we scale innovations and data-driven models that deliver measurable impact. We advance this work alongside men and communities, co-creating and building environments and systems to ensure every woman has the agency to shape her future and lead a healthy, fulfilling life.